

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claim for this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A bone implant comprising:

(a) a core having a first end wall, a second end wall and defining a centerline extending centrally of and between said end walls, and a circumferential side wall portion parallel and extending between said end walls;

(b) at least two axially elongated projections,

(i) extending ~~from and~~ along said core and projecting radially
outwards beyond the circumferential side wall portion of said core,

(ii) being disposed at a uniform circumferential spacing from each other about the centerline,

(iii) having a rounded contour when viewed in axial direction of the core, and

wherein each projection is formed by a plurality of fins disposed in a row parallel with said centerline; and

(c) said core and said projections being dimensioned to contact inner wall sections of a socket formed in a bone, said socket having a predetermined size and configuration compatible with that of the implant, when the implant has been tapped into the socket.

2. (Previously Presented) The bone implant of claim 1, comprising four axially elongated projections, said projections being disposed at a generally 90° circumferential spacing from each other about said centerline.

3. (Original) The bone implant of claim 1, further comprising at least two elongated stems extending from a location at the second end wall of said core and having a free end disposed beyond said second end wall, each stem defining a stem axis.

4. (Original) The bone implant of claim 3, wherein a part of each elongated stem has a radially outer portion which forms an extension of one of said projections.

5. (Previously Presented) The bone implant of claim 1, wherein the fins are inclined in a direction toward the centerline and the second end wall, whereby the tapping of the implant into an associated socket is facilitated and the withdrawal thereof from the socket is impeded by back biting orientation of the fins.

6. (Original) The bone implant of claim 3, wherein at least a part of at least one of the elongated stems includes a plurality of fins inclined in a direction toward the axis and the free end of the respective stem whereby the tapping of the implant into the socket is facilitated and the withdrawal thereof from the socket is impeded by back biting orientation of the fins.

7. (Previously Presented) The bone implant of claim 1, wherein said circumferential side wall is generally circular in a cross-section perpendicular to said centerline.

8. (Previously Presented) The bone implant of claim 1, wherein said second end wall of the core has the shape of a cavity symmetrical according to said centerline.

9. (Original) The bone implant of claim 8, wherein the shape of the cavity is concave.

Claims 10-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Withdrawn) A method for inserting the implant of claim 1 into an implant-receiving socket in bone, which comprises:

forming the implant receiving socket from a bore pre-formed in a bone, using template means comprising:

(a) a sleeve having an axis, a first end, a second end, an inner wall and an outer wall, an outer circumference of the sleeve corresponding in shape and in size to the circumference of an associated bore pre-formed in the bone;

(b) an axially elongated first channel and an axially elongated second channel, each formed in the outer wall of the sleeve, having a concavely rounded cross-section and being disposed at a generally uniform spacing from each other about said axis; and

inserting the implant into the implant receiving cavity.

27. (Withdrawn) The method template means of claim 26, wherein the template means further comprises a generally cylindrical locking pin discrete from the sleeve and compatible with the radius of one of said grooves.

28. (Withdrawn) The method template means of claim 26, wherein the template means further comprises a third channel and a fourth channel, all said channels being formed in the outer wall of the sleeve at a spacing from one another of about 90° about said axis, each channel having a generally semi-circular cross-section.

29. (Withdrawn) The method template means of claim 26, wherein the template means further comprises a handle disposed at said first end of the sleeve between two adjacent channels and projecting radially away from the sleeve to facilitate manipulation of the sleeve.

30. (Withdrawn) The method template means of claim 26, wherein the channels of the template means extend full length of the sleeve, from the first end to the second end thereof.

31. (Withdrawn) The method template means of claim 26, wherein the locking pin of the template means is a tubular sleeve.

32. (Withdrawn) The method template means of claim 26, wherein the second end of the sleeve of the template means is concavely rounded.

33. (New) The bone implant of claim 1, wherein the first end of the core is provided with a securement means for fixing a prosthesis or healing cap to the core.

34. (New) The bone implant of claim 33, wherein the securement means comprises a threaded bore for fixing the prosthesis or healing cap to the core.